



We asked ChalCAN members what changes they had made to reduce their carbon footprint or to enhance biodiversity during 2020



“What a great idea asking people this! Sometimes it can feel like you’re swimming against the tide when you think it’s just you doing these small things!”

Everyone CAN do something Here’s a few of the responses

Transport

- Walked rather than used the car
- Walked or cycled to school
- Cycling to work as much as possible, averaging 50-90 mls/ week
- Bought an e-bike for local trips
- Didn't replace an old second car
- Used the local buses more often (before Covid)
- Signed a 'flight free' commitment and have done so again for 2021
- Travelling less and planning better
- Trying to 'buy local' more
- Bought an electric car: great performance and cost savings

Food Waste

- Joined an online Food Waste course
- Took surplus veg down to Long Table
- Found new ways of using/freezing fresh produce when there was a glut
- We've made our own pizzas
- Joined Olio app to use surplus food

Food

- Reduced meat in our diet; the meat we do eat is organic
- I went vegan and still going strong
- We cut out dairy
- Buy less food with plastic packaging
- We have tried to buy less food with plastic packaging
- Eating seasonable vegetables
- Stopped buying products with palm oil
- Avoiding food with high air miles

Biodiversity

- Planted wildflower patches in my garden
- Planting trees
- Have 2 compost bins instead of 1
- Traded surplus compost for plants
- No-mow summer! Less mower fuel and plenty of bees
- Dug a small pond at the allotment
- Left more areas in garden for wild-life
- Built insect shelters

Allotments and Composting

- Composting uncooked fruit and veg
- Grew more vegetables in the garden/on the allotment
- No more bonfires - composting only!
- Tried out no-dig organic allotment

Energy

- Fitted 500W of net-metered solar panels on the shed
- Rarely used central heating - otherwise wood-burner
- We have replaced old windows with new double glazing
- Always dry our laundry on line – we never use a tumble dryer
- We have solar panels, so try to do washing when sun is shining
- Changed our energy supplier to Good Energy
- Use our smart meter to check how much fuel we are using
- Keep the heating at 18C and putting on more jumpers
- Tripled the thickness of my roof insulation
- Fitted LED lamps through the house

Reducing Waste

- Resisted buying new clothes
- Bought second-hand clothes & value retro clothes I have
- Bought re-usable make-up remover pads
- Gifted, sold or donated old toys, clothes, textiles (avoids the tip)
- Collected disposable gloves and diverted to Terracycle
- Used bars of soap and refillables for washing up liquid, surface cleaner etc..
- Changed from disposable to safety razors
- Milk delivery in glass bottles
- Use SMOL dishwasher tablets
- Repaired things using videos

Misc

- Subscribed to Ethical Consumer
- Switched banks and divest investments from fossil fuels
- Support several conservation charities
- Bought nothing new on black Friday

“It’s great to take stock of what you have achieved over the year.”

On the other hand ... more important is what we must make the government do:

- Change planning laws to encourage large scale onshore wind energy developments
- Direct financial and manpower resources into tidal, wave, & offshore wind energy generation projects
- Sign up to a carbon neutral deadline, earlier than 2050
- Empower and encourage parishes and districts to do what it takes to become carbon neutral